

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor John Althoff and Council Members Bill Duncan, Steve Gesme, Matt Montgomery, Mary Jill Bringgold, Laura Kronenberger, and Derek Lundell. Also present were Neil Jensen, City Administrator; Dan Howard, Public Works Director; Dianne Howard, Zoning Administrator; Dave TerBeest, Police Officer; Laura Qualey, Community & Economic Business Specialist; and Nicole Miller, Library Director (remotely).

Call to Order Mayor Althoff called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call All members were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Althoff led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda A motion was made by Council Member Duncan, seconded by Council Member Bringgold and unanimously carried, to approve the agenda as presented.

Public Input Mayor Althoff reviewed the public input procedure.

Sue Petron, 107 Riverside Terrance, Cannon Falls, introduced herself as a local business owner. She referenced a petition signed by 224 people in favor of moving the farmers market back Downtown. She stated that a Downtown farmers market would reach people who cannot drive to the edge of town. She suggested a community market that would sell other homegrown and homemade products in addition to food, such as flowers and soaps. She described the farmers market as an asset and as a gathering place for the community and visitors. She spoke in opposition to vendor fees and suggested designating a market contact person.

Rosie Schluter, Cannon Falls area resident, provided a history of the Downtown farmers market and commented that the market should be located where the people are located.

Presentation:
Cannon Falls Library
Strategic Plan 2022-
2024 Library Director Miller discussed how the updated plan was developed in conjunction with SELCO consultants, Library staff, and the Library Board, with input from a community survey. She stated that the Strategic Plan was approved by the Library Board on November 8 and will go into effect on January 1, 2022.

Director Miller shared a revised Cannon Falls Library Mission Statement:

The Cannon Falls Library welcomes and strengthens the community, supports literacy, provides access to information, and fosters life-long learning and enrichment.

Director Miller reviewed the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan:

Goal #1: Provide a welcoming and accessible space.

Objective: Improve the patron experience by removing barriers and increasing access.

Goal #2: Support the communication of ideas through collections and services.

Objective #1: Assess and expand physical collections to meet community needs.

Objective #2: Expand service outside normal Library hours.

Objective #3: Improve online presence.

Goal #3: Foster life-long learning through programs and community conversations.

Objective #1: Host more community conversations in the Library.

Objective #2: Host and sponsor programs that engage the community.

Objective #3: Strengthen and increase partnerships.

Goal #4: Increase professional development opportunities for Library staff to better engage and serve the needs of the community.

Objective #1: Develop professional development policies.

Objective #2: Provide targeted development opportunities to meet community needs.

Library Board Vice President Elizabeth Zimmermann commented that residents who did not use the Library also responded to the survey.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending November 10, 2021
- B. Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2021, City Council Meeting
- C. Approve Street Shop / Cannon Valley Trail Building Furnace
- D. Resolution 2588, Approving a Cooperative Snow Removal Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation
- E. Approve County 24 / Hickory Drive Reversion
- F. Resolution 2589, Approving Municipal Consent Project No. SAP-025-617-005, Along County State Aid Highway No. 17
- G. Resolution 2590, Approving Municipal Consent Project No. SAP-025-620-001, Along County State Aid Highway No. 20
- H. Resolution 2591, Approving Municipal Consent Project No. SAP-025-622-002, Along County State Aid Highway No. 22

- I. Resolution 2592, Approving Municipal Consent Project
No. SAP-025-624-022, Along County State Aid Highway No. 24
- J. Resolution 2593, Approving Municipal Consent Project
No. SAP-025-625-008, Along County State Aid Highway No. 25
- K. Resolution 2594, Approving Municipal Consent Project
No. SAP-025-629-002, Along County State Aid Highway No. 29
- L. Approve Public Works Maintenance I Position
- M. Approve Disposal of 1991 Ford Pumper Truck

A motion was made by Council Member Lundell, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Council Business:
Introduction and First
Reading of Ordinance
381, an Ordinance of
the City of Cannon
Falls, Minnesota,
Amending City Code
Chapter 152 Relating
to Conditional Uses in
the B-2 Highway
Business District

Zoning Administrator Howard provided background information. She referenced discussion by the Planning Commission, which voted to recommend adoption of Ordinance 381.

At this point Mayor Althoff opened the meeting for public comment.

Bob Banks clarified the location of his property along Highway 52. He stated that a potential buyer has expressed interest in operating a truck terminal and maintenance shop on the property along with potentially auto sales. He described the 11-acre parcel as very desirable commercial real estate, noting that there is City water and sewer services.

Zoning Administrator Howard commented that surrounding communities allow truck terminals and auto sales along highway corridors. She stated that the City Attorney drafted the ordinance language.

Council Member Lundell asked if these uses would be allowed in all B-2 districts, if Ordinance 381 is adopted. It was noted that these types of businesses would be allowed in all B-2 districts with a Conditional Use Permit.

Council Member Duncan commented that the Planning Commission's recommendation was unanimous.

A motion was made by Council Member Duncan to approve the introduction and first reading of Ordinance 381. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gesme, a vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Council Committees /
Commissions / Non-
Profit Organizations

Cannon Falls Area Chamber of Commerce President Kyle Paulson expressed appreciation to Public Works staff for their assistance with seasonal decorations. She detailed Deck the Falls events on November 27. She stated that more parade units are encouraged. She discussed a new fireworks fundraiser 50/50 raffle. President Paulson also discussed the Light Up Cannon Falls contest, noting that a tour map will be published on December 17. She discussed the Buy Local Giving Tree initiative. She discussed a holiday scavenger hunt activity from December 3 through December 15, with prizes drawings for completed entries.

Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey reported that the John Burch Park reconstruction project was discussed during the recent Minnesota House bonding bill committee fall tour. Mayor Althoff expressed appreciation to Ms. Qualey for the excellent presentation. Community & Economic Business Specialist Qualey discussed fundraising activities toward the project. She also discussed the recent opening of the Magnolia Animal Hospital. She reported that the next EDA meeting is scheduled on December 2, during which strategic planning will be discussed. She encouraged everyone to shop local this holiday season.

Chamber President Paulson discussed Small Business Saturday promotional sales.

Council Member Lundell summarized a recent Public Works Commission meeting, during which the bridge project was discussed.

Council Member Montgomery summarized a recent Park Board meeting, during which park dedication relating to the former Sandstone Ridge development was discussed. He stated that the consensus of the group was to encourage the development of some type of park in this area.

Council Member Duncan summarized a recent Finance Committee meeting, during which the final 2022 budget and levy were discussed. He stated that the Finance Committee also reviewed an adult entertainment business application for the I-2 zoning district, should that ever be needed. He stated that the Finance Committee also reviewed the 2022 license fees and compensation schedule. He stated that the Finance Committee is working on a Healthcare Savings Account plan for the supervisors union.

Council Member Duncan referenced past discussion of a vaccination policy. He suggested scheduling a work session on December 7 following the regular Council meeting for further discussion of the policy. It was suggested to ask City Attorney Sarah Schwarzhoff to attend the work session.

Council Member Duncan summarized a recent Planning Commission meeting, during which draft Ordinance 381 was discussed.

Staff

Public Works Director Howard discussed Downtown holiday decorations and provided a Third Street Bridge project update.

Library Director Miller discussed upcoming Library activities, including a hat decorating contest in December.

City Administrator Jensen referenced public input during the last Council meeting and provided clarifying information. Administrator Jensen also discussed upcoming road and street construction projects.

City Administrator Jensen summarized a recent meeting, during which an RFP / RFQ process relating to the former Sandstone Ridge property was discussed.

Mayor and Council

Mayor Althoff referenced a letter from Jim Johnson, Riverside Terrance, pertaining to his water usage.

The Downtown Farmers Market was further discussed. Zoning Administrator Howard and City Administrator Jensen provided additional background information. It was clarified that vendors aged 16 and under were not charged a fee. Tim Mahle was identified as the Downtown Farmers Market manager. Chamber President Paulson stated her understanding of the types of products that could be offered for sale. It was suggested to further research and clarify the rules and fees. Safety considerations were discussed. It was decided to add this topic to a future Council meeting agenda.

Council Member Montgomery congratulated the Cannon Falls Bombers football and volleyball teams on their successful seasons.

Mayor Althoff wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Gesme, seconded by Council Member Duncan and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 7th day of December, 2021.

John O. Althoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

Neil L. Jensen, City Administrator